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PRESS RELEASE

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Southwestern Prince William Sound Goat Hunt Closes

(Cordova)- Registration permit hunt RG266 for mountain goats in Unit 6D will close at 11:59 p.m. on September 21 by Emergency Order of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Hunt area RG266 includes the mainland portion of Unit 6D south of Icy Bay, Tiger Glacier and Sargent Icefield, east of Cape Fairfield, and west of Port Bainbridge and Bainbridge Passage.

Aerial surveys found a minimum count of 300 goats in registration permit area RG266. The department set the maximum allowable state harvest at 6 goat units, and an additional 4 goat units for federal subsistence hunters, for a total of 10 goat units. Additional take beyond the harvest objective could harm the long-term stability of these populations. According to Cordova Area Biologist Charlotte Westing, the harvest is currently at 1 billies and 2 nannies for a total of 5 goat units out of the allotted 6 goat units for state harvest. Nannies count as 2 goats and billies count as 1 goat unit towards the harvest objective. Hunters are currently in the field, and it is likely additional goats have been harvested but not yet reported. This closure is necessary to prevent unsustainable harvest.

This closure affects only registration permit hunt RG266 in Unit 6D. All other mountain goat hunting regulations in the remainder of Game Management Unit 6 are not affected by this emergency order.

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